



Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 15482
Austin, Texas 78761

ATT: Mayor Steve Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Natasha Harper-Madison, Council Member Vanessa Fuentes, Council Member Sabino Renteria, Council Member Gregorio Casar, Council Member Ann Kitchen, Council Member Mackenzie Kelly, Council Member Leslie Pool, Council Member Paige Ellis, Council Member Kathie Tovo, Council Member Alison Alter

The **Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association** requests a postponement of Rezoning Case C14-2020-0089 (Twelfth and Springdale Residences) to the July 29th City Council meeting in order to give sufficient time for the City Attorney and staff to review and respond to the letter dated May 24, 2021 from Mr. Bill Aleshire, the attorney representing the Bethany Cemetery Association, regarding the signature of Ms. Sue Spears on the valid petition. Staff's determination of whether Ms. Spears' signature meets the criteria for valid petition is extremely relevant to this case because her signature alone would represent well over 20% of the area of lots adjacent to the proposed site of development. We are aware of the backlog that the City's legal department is currently experiencing and have concerns that this important matter will not receive the careful attention it requires by the time of the June 10th meeting.

Moreover, the Planning Commission meeting for this case was held on May 25, 2021, after a roughly one-month postponement requested by the applicant for rezoning was granted. During this time, the applicant retained the services of a geoscientist to conduct a ground penetrating radar survey along two sides of Bethany Cemetery to determine the potential for unearthing human remains during the course of development. We feel that an equal, if not greater, amount of time should be granted for postponement in order to address the validity of Ms. Spears' signature on the petition as the authorized representative for Bethany Cemetery. We are confident that the applicant will agree that such measures of due diligence should be taken in consideration of this historic Black cemetery.

Sincerely,

Melonie House-Dixon

Melonie House-Dixon, Chair

